



AT HALF-MAST — Medford joined with the rest of the Nation in paying tribute to President Kennedy by lowering all American flags to half-mast. This photo shows the flag in appropriate position at the Medford Post Office.

Author Describes Kennedy to Poles

WARSAW (UPI) — Nobel Prize-winning author John Steinbeck said Saturday the late President Kennedy "spearheaded all the liberal passions" during his time in the White House.

Johnson Receives Pledge of Support From Texas Solons

WASHINGTON (UPI)—President Johnson, heretofore a fierce fighter in factional Democratic politics in Texas, received a pledge of support Saturday from all members of his party's Lone Star congressional delegation.

Sen. Ralph Yarborough personally pledged to Johnson "my support in Texas and the Nation." The two have feuded over patronage and party policy since Johnson left his Senate leadership post for the Vice Presidency.

Yarborough belongs to the liberal wing of the party in Texas. Johnson has always been associated with the moderate-conservative faction.

The Senator sent this telegram to the new President Saturday: "Under the great burdens and duties you bear as leader of America and the free world, I pledge my support in Texas and the Nation."

Actually, UPI learned, efforts to heal breaches in Texas democracy began after a testimonial dinner for Rep. Albert Thomas in Houston Thursday night. Thomas took the lead in these efforts.

President Kennedy was scheduled to make a speech at a political fund raising dinner at Austin Friday night. Yarborough had not been invited to speak at the dinner. Also, he had not been invited to attend a reception for the President at Gov. John Connally's executive mansion.

Thomas, however, as intermediary between Connally and Johnson on the one hand, and Yarborough on the other, effected a truce. Under its terms, Yarborough was given speaking time at the Austin dinner. The truce also included plans for Yarborough to join Johnson in the ill-fated motorcade in Dallas.

In Washington Saturday, members of the Texas Democratic Delegation in Congress, met to discuss their new status with a Lone Star stater in the White House. Their only announced action, however, was to send Johnson this wire: "We extend to you our co-operation and prayers." Yarborough also joined in this telegram.

President Kennedy "spearheaded all the liberal passions" during his time in the White House. "I dare to say there was no citizen he did not care about," Steinbeck told Polish journalists.

"He was enormously popular and that is why (the assassination) doesn't make any sense," the bearded author said with obvious feeling.

"Though not close, of course, I knew him. He invited me to the inauguration and to the White House. He was the first President in recent times who had a strong interest in writing, thinking, in all the arts."

"He had a fantastic mind. He could read a page like a photograph. He seemed to have read everything," Steinbeck continued.

"In his house there was informality and graciousness and I think you know his public aspect so I won't comment on that. It was a terrible job he had, it was an awful job, it was a killing job and on top of that he had personal tragedy in his family."

Steinbeck returned here Friday night from a week-long visit to other Polish cities. He has been meeting Polish writers and intellectuals under the auspices of the U. S. cultural program and at the invitation of the Polish Writers Union.

He leaves this week for Hungary.

Lawyer May Not Defend Suspect

NEW YORK (UPI) — John J. Abt, the attorney sought by accused assassin Lee Harvey Oswald as a defense lawyer, said Saturday night, "I don't see how it would be possible to undertake a case of this magnitude." He spoke in an interview with the American Broadcasting System (ABC).

While not flatly refusing to take the case, Abt noted that "I have a very heavy litigation schedule," and said that undertaking Oswald's defense "would not be fair to my other clients."

"It would have to be a very serious decision," Abt told ABC.

Asked why he thought he had been mentioned as a possible defense counsel, Abt said, "I have a reputation for representing the underdog, particularly unpopular political minorities."

He told ABC that he had been "listening like everyone else" to the radio reports of the assassination, and had been "shocked, disturbed and disheartened" by it.

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